

must allow his dough to rise. The author was in too great a rush to print what should have been a longer project of research and reflection. It is a pity because the mind behind this text is most creative and original as evidenced by, e.g., some soaring passages on the State, peoplehood, history and culture in the final chapter. It is always a pity to witness wasted talent.

JHHW

Pinder, John. *European Community: The Building of a Union* (2nd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. Pp. x, 261. Index. \$16.95

There is no hiding the great sympathy of John Pinder to the process he describes. Sometimes such engagement is detrimental to scholarship. This is not the case here: Pinder's great achievement is to take a phenomenon (European Integration) and a polity (the Union) which seem to defy any coherent account and to construct a narrative in which all important elements cohere. That alternative views can exist, that some will regard critically what Pinder regards favourably, that some would have made different choices as to what should go into the narrative is evident. But this does not detract from the achievement. There is a bonus: Free of jargon, the book is a pleasure to read. A bargain.

JHHW

Corbett Richard, Francis Jacobs and Michael Shackleton. *The European Parliament* (3rd ed.). London: Cartermill International, 1995. Pp. xxiii, 337. Index. £35; \$75.

Edwards, Geoffrey, and David Spence (eds.). *The European Commission*. London: Longman Group, 1994. Pp. xiii, 302. Index. £35; \$75.

Westlake, Martin. *The Council of the European Union*. London: Cartermill International, 1995. Pp. xxv, 404. Index. £36; \$75.

Everyone has something to say about democracy or its absence in the European construct. Everyone has an opinion about the European Parliament. (Well, everyone

who would be reading this review). But the factual base on which much grandiose assessment of the European Parliament is conducted is often laughably thin. This book is not a law book – when will there be a new edition of Jacqué, Bieber, Constantinesco and Nickel? It is, instead, the best up-to-date account in English of the anatomy and physiognomy of the Parliament.

Almost the same can be said of the book on the Commission. It is a collection of essays and does not, thus, have quite the same structural coherence of Corbett and Co. But the editors imposed a rigid plan which has been followed. Each chapter has most useful annexes of primary sources – quite an advantage. The most valuable parts are the first chapters dealing with the internal operation of the Commission and a short but efficient essay on the Commission and lobbying. That is another hallmark of the volume: Brevity, coupled with extensive pointers for further reading. The more traditional chapters, Commission-Council; Commission-Parliament, Commission and the Union Foreign Policy apparatus are authoritative. Read this book coupled with the recent special edition of the *Revue Française de Science Politique* for an up-to-date description and conceptualization of the present day Commission.

The third in this brace deserves similar accolades. Westlake's book on the Council is not elegant. There is no overall thesis and it is somewhat bitty in content and presentation. But Westlake and his co-authors provide a hugely informative and detailed account of the work of the Council – both in its generic sense and also sectorially – something never before done with such breadth and depth in English. Here too there are annexes galore with primary sources often difficult to access. The level of detail is impressive though this will of course make the book date somewhat more rapidly.

All in all, these three books make an outstanding contribution and an altogether more detailed – insider – knowledge of the principal political institutions of the Union. Read them before you start theorizing.

Laursen, Finn (ed.). *The Political Economy of European Integration*. The Hague:

Kluwer Law International, 1995. Pp. ix, 312. Dfl 195; £88; \$145.

A thoughtful book edited by Finn Laursen. It represents the contributions of the new generation of political-economists to the grander and more structural problems of European Integration. It is a far more Americanized work compared to, say, Pelkmans and Jacquemin, both in methodology (modeling, game-theory, implicit premises of what counts as evidence and what you look for as cause) and is confidently theoretical. The first three chapters are more in the nature of system analysis, the rest are case studies. The confidence of the volume and its authors is also the hall mark of weakness: Theirs is THE way to understand the problems and THE way to think of their solution. But then why should political economists be different from economists *simpliciter* and for that matter from lawyers and politologists. Shocking price which even libraries will resist.

JHHW

Birnie, Patricia W., and Alan Boyle. *Basic Documents on International Law and The Environment*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. Pp. vii, 680. Index. \$38.

This collection of materials is a companion to the author's text book. It is also a useful 'stand alone' for the most important instruments in the field.

JHHW

Fischer, Thomas C. *The Europeanization of America: What the Americans Need to Know about the European Union*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 1995. Pp. xiv, 335. Index. \$49.95.

If every American knew as much about America as Professor Fischer expects them to know about the European Union... if every European knew as much about Europe as Professor Fischer expects Americans to know the old Continent... This book has a strange quality: It is not rooted in any academic discipline – it is part history, part political science, part law, part political economy. But it works wonderfully: It provides a useful panorama for any outsider who wants not only to know

about the mechanics of the Union but to feel its *geist*. Even if you count yourself as an expert, you will learn something new from almost every chapter. On the costly side if compared to, say, the Pinder volume reviewed above.

Hesse, Joachim Jens, and Nevil Johnson (eds.). *Constitutional Policy and Change in Europe*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. Pp. ix, 392. Index. \$59.

This is an edited volume concerning a topic of considerable political and academic importance. In its central parts the book contains country reports from both "Western" and "Eastern" Europe – of a high quality in a field which has suffered from some inflationary pressures. The concluding essay of the editors – a kind of stocktaking – cannot and does not do justice to the preceding chapters. Two introductory essays by Kommers & Thompson and by Nevil Johnson on ideas and concepts of constitutionalism are fine, thoughtful pieces. Very disappointing, however, is the unusually thin introduction to the entire book by Hesse. This is surprising given not only the richness to be found in the very volume of which he is co-editor but also given the richness of Constitutional Discourse in recent British political science by scholars like Bellamy and Castiglione and by legal theorists such as McCormick. The chapter on the European Union by Schuppert conveys the impression that the only interesting things to say about European Community constitutionalism can be said in the German literature. As an article for a German audience that would be an insult. To the broader audience of this book such an insular approach offers comic relief. The chapter by Grimm on German constitutionalism is more enlightening to general constitutional discourse than that of Schuppert on the European Union.

JHHW

Dupuy, Pierre-Marie. *Grands textes de droit international public*. Paris: Iditons Dalloz, 1996. Pp. xii, 877. F 260.